

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCE-00 ACDA-12
/121 W

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R 201402Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7720
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, PBOR, ET, SO, US
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN REACTION TO POSSIBLE US ARMS SUPPLY TO SOMALIA

SUMMARY: WEEKEND EDITIONS OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED
PRESS REPORTED PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE ETHIOPIAN REACTION TO
STATE DEPT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT "USG IS NOW IN A POSITION TO
PROCEED WITH PROVIDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA" (AS
QUOTED). PRESS DESCRIBED POSSIBLE PROVISION OF ARMS AS TANTA-
MOUNT TO ENDORSEMENT OF SOMALIA'S IRREDENTIST AIMS IN HORN
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AND DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE SIAD BARRE TO UNLEASH
YET ANOTHER WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA. PRESS URGED
THAT MORALITY OF PRES CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE DI-
RECTED TOWARD PERSUADING THE MOGADISCIO REGIME "TO RENOUNCE
ONCE AND FOR ALL ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICY, TO ACCEPT INTER-
NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND RESPECT BASIC PRINCIPLES OF OAU AND
UN CHARTERS AS WELL AS PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT."

ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIAN PRESS REMINDED READERS SARCASTICALLY OF PREVIOUS US PLEDGE NOT TO ARM EITHER SIDE IN CONFLICT, IT DID NOT REPORT ALL IMPORTANT CAVEAT FROM PRES CARTER'S MARCH 9 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT SOMALIA WOULD HAVE TO GIVE TANGIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF ITS COMMITMENT NOT TO DISHONOR INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF EITHER ETHIOPIA OR KENYA, BEFORE US WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC AID OR DEFENSIVE ARMS SUPPLIES. WEEKEND ARTICLES UNDOUBTEDLY BEGINNING OF PUBLIC LOBBYING CAMPAIGN BY ETHIOPIANS TO DISSUADE US FROM PROVIDING ARMS TO SOMALIA IF POSSIBLE, OR IF NOT, TO BE IN POSITION TO CONTINUE CASTIGATING US AND EVEN TO MAKE IT SCAPEGOAT FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS OF CURRENT DE FACTO CEASEFIRE, WHETHER FROM SOMALI OR ETHIOPIAN SIDE. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 18 ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY (ENA) ARTICLE TITLED "US ENDORSES SOMALIA'S WAR OF AGGRESSION" CARRIES RING OF AUTHORITY SINCE IT ECHOES RECENT PRIVATE STATEMENTS BY RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO CHARGE. RATHER THAN EXPANDING ON PRES CARTER'S MARCH 9 REMARKS ON POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA, ENA ARTICLE CHOSE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING DAY THAT US PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH PROVIDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

2. ENA TERMED USG'S READINESS TO SUPPLY SOMALIA AS ATTEMPT TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR SOMALIA TO COMMIT FURTHER AGGRESSIONS. SIAD BARRE HAS ALL ALONG AMASSED ARMS IN NAME OF SELF-DEFENSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ADVANCE HIS EXPANSIONIST POLICIES. ENA AVERRED THAT WHITE HOUSE READINESS TO SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA "COULD ONLY BE VIEWED AS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE SIAD LAUNCH ANOTHER WAR OF AGGRESSION AIMED AT PEOPLE AND REVOLUTION OF ETHIOPIA. SUPPLY OF ARMS UNDER WHATEVER PRETEXT IS NOT ONLY ADDING FUEL TO FIRE, BUT ALSO REVEALS USG'S LONG-TERM POLICY OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS REVOLUTION AND OPPRESSED MASSES OF ETHIOPIA."

3. MARCH 19 ARTICLE BY ETHIOPIAN HERALD "STAFF WRITER" TITLED "AMERICA'S ANTI-PEACE POLICY" FOLLOWED SAME LINE AS ENA ARTICLE, BUT WAS FILLED WITH MUCH MORE ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC. STAFF WRITER CLAIMED US IS TRYING TO MANEUVER WORLD OPINION IN SOMALIA'S FAVOR TO PAVE WAY FOR ARMS SUPPLY. AUTHOR REPEATED ETHIOPIA'S CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN HORN AND ARGUED US FOLLOWING HYPOCRITICAL POLICY OF PUBLIC CONCERN FOR WORLD PEACE, WHILE AT SAME TIME CONSIDERING ARMS FOR AN AGGRESSOR WHICH HAS BEEN DISTURBING PEACE IN THE HORN FOR LAST SEVENTEEN YEARS. US WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EVADE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEATHS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IF US POLICIES CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE BARRE TO PURSUE HIS EXPANSIONIST POLICIES.

4. THIS LATEST ATTACK AGAINST US COMES AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS
OF RELATIVE MEDIA MODERATION, WHICH BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER FEB
17-18 VISIT OF PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY AARON.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ARMS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Date: 28 apr 2005
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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